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Message Text

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ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 /012 W
----------150409Z 027906 /63
R 141845Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4328
INFO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

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DEPARTMENT FOR SY AND ARA/MGT; CARACAS FOR RSO

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: POST SECURITY PROGRAM, GEORGETOWN

REF: STATE 001182

1. SUMMARY: POST'S PROGRESS IN EFFORTS TO UPGRADE SECURITY NEEDS IN COMMUNICATIONS, INSTALLATION OF LOCKS AND ALARMS, FIRE AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES, AND PHYSICAL SITE IMPROVEMENTS IS REPORTED AS REQUESTED BY REFTEL. POST BELIEVES NO FURTHER STAFF REDUCTION POSSIBLE AT THIS TIME, AND IS ACTIVELY MONITORING POSSIBILITIES TO COMBINE HOUSING.

2. POST'S NEW CONTRACT GUARD SERVICE, PROVIDED BY GEB SECURITY SERVICES LTD, WAS INITIATED MARCH 1. DELAY IN STARTUP WAS AT REQUEST OF GEB TO ENSURE ADEQUATE PERIOD FOR MANPOWER RECRUITMENT AND NECESSARY TRAINING. IN INTERIM SINCE RSO CONDUCTED FULL SECURITY SURVEY IN NOVEMBER 1976 (RESULTS OF WHICH ARE CURRENTLY BEING REVIEWED AT POST) AND IN RESPONSE TO REQUIREMENTS STATED PARA 3 REFTEL, POST HAS MADE CONCERTED ONGOING EFFORT TO IMPROVE SECURITY AT BOTH OFFICES AND RESIDENCES. FOLLOWING ARE KEY MEASURES TAKEN TO DATE:
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A. COMMUNICATIONS. VHF VOICE RADIO NETWORK HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO 19 UNITS CURRENTLY IN OPERATION (TWO MOBILE). NEW CALL SIGNS WERE INTRODUCED NOVEMBER 22, 1976. BASE STATION CONDUCTS SCHEDULED RADIO/TIME CHECKS WITH RADIO SILENCE UNLESS FOR EMERGENCY TRANSMISSION. RADIO NET PARTICIPANTS ARE FOLLOWING REGULAR TEST PROCEDURES IN CONJUNCTION WITH BASE STATION TIME CHECKS. VISIT

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OF CEO-R FEBRUARY 22-25 RESULTED IN NUMBER OF
IMPROVEMENTS PREVIOUSLY RECOMMENDED BY RSO, INCLUDING
RELOCATION OF VHF BASE STATION TO C&R, INSTALLATION OF
DESKON UNIT AT MARINE GUARD DESK, INSTALLATION OF TWO
MOBILE UNITS.
B. LOCKS AND ALARMS. TOTAL OF 17 DEADBOLT LOCKS
HAVE BEEN INSTALLED IN 10 RESIDENCES. INSTALLATIONS
REMAIN IN 9 HOUSES TO COMPLETE NEEDS IDENTIFIED IN
RESIDENCE SECURITY INVENTORY CONDUCTED DECEMBER 1976.
POCKET ALARM HORNS HAVE BEEN DISTRIBUTED TO ALL
EMPLOYEES (TWO EACH). ONE HORN IS DESIGNATED
FOR PERSONAL USE OF EMPLOYEE AND/OR DEPENDENT, ONE MADE
AVAILABLE FOR CONTRACT SECURITY GUARD USE AT NIGHT. MORE
SOPHISTICATED RESIDENTIAL ALARM DEVICES WOULD BE MOST
USEFUL ADDITION TO RESIDENTIAL SECURITY PROGRAM HERE, AS
RECOMMENDED DURING VISIT OF MOBILE TRAINING TEAM NOVEMBER
1976. USAID HAS PLACED ORDER FOR 6 RESIDENTIAL INTRUSION
ALARMS MADE AVAILABLE UNDER THE AID/W SECURITY PROGRAM.
DOES SY HAVE SIMILAR DEVICES AVAILABLE?
C. FIRE AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES. EMBASSY, WHICH IS VERY
DRY WOODEN STRUCTURE, HAS COMPREHENSIVE FIRE EVACUATION
PLAN. FULL TEST OF PLAN WAS SUCCESSFULLY CONDUCTED ON
FEBRUARY 14. EMERGENCY PLAN IN EVENT OF SECURITY THREAT
ON EMBASSY GROUND FLOOR WAS ESTABLISHED JANUARY 24. PROCEDURE
WAS TESTED SATISFACTORILY FEBRUARY 15. TESTING OF ALL
EXISTING FIRE EXTINGUISHERS IS NOW UP TO DATE, AND ALL
NECESSARY REPAIRS HAVE BEEN MADE. 37 NEW FIRE EXTINGUISHERS
FOR RESIDENTIAL USE HAVE BEEN PURCHASED: TWO ARE PLACED IN
EACH RESIDENCE; (MANY OF WHICH ARE DRY WOODEN STRUCTURES)
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ONE IS FOR INTERNAL USE AND ONE ACCESSIBLE TO THE GEB
SECURITY GUARDS, ALL OF WHOM ARE TRAINED IN BASIC FIREFIGHTING.
D. PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS. BASIC CONSTRUCTION OF RAISED
MARINE GUARD COUNTER AND PLATFORM COMPLETED, NOW AWAITING
ARMOR PLATING AND WIRING FOR CCTV, AS RECOMMENDED DURING
TSO/SEABEE VISIT NOVEMBER 16/17. SECURITY GATE AT EMBASSY
REAR ENTRANCE HAS BEEN RELOCATED ON ADVICE OF RSO. COMPLETE
CLEANUP OF EMBASSY AND CONSULATE COMPOUNDS TO REMOVE FIRE
AND SAFETY HAZARDS COMPLETED. PACKAGE CONTROL AND PUBLIC
RESTROOM CONTROL INSTITUTED AT CONSULATE.

3. POST SEES NO FURTHER STAFF REDUCTIONS POSSIBLE AT THIS
TIME AS MEANS OF LOWERING GUARD COSTS. USAID HAS REDUCED
ITS U.S. STAFF CEILING FOR FY-1977 TO 8 DUE TO PROGRAM
REDUCTION. EMBASSY, HOWEVER, DUE TO INCREASED CONSULAR
WORKLOAD GENERATED BY WESTERN HEMISPHERE IMMIGRATION BILL,
CONTINUING DEMANDS OF POLITICAL-ECONOMIC REPORTING, AND PRESENT
MINIMUM LEVELS IN U.S. SECRETARIAL, C&R, AND ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFFS, BELIEVES THERE ARE NO OPPORTUNITIES CURRENTLY FOR

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REDUCTIONS.

4. ALMOST ALL AVAILABLE HOUSING FOR LEASE IN GEORGETOWN
IS THE SINGLE FAMILY TYPE HOUSE ON INDIVIDUAL LOT.
GEORGETOWN HAS ONLY TWO APARTMENT BUILDINGS SUITABLE FOR
EMPLOYEE OCCUPANCY. THESE UNITS THOUGH EXPENSIVE,
(RANGING $100-300 PER MONTH ABOVE COMPARABLY SIZED HOUSES)
PROVIDE EXCELLENT SECURITY, AND VACANCIES ARE RARE FOR
THIS REASON. POST IS MONITORING POSSIBLE FUTURE APARTMENT
VACANCIES, AND IS ALSO ON LOOKOUT FOR OPPORTUNITIES IN
FLATS AND CONVERTED HOUSES INTO 2 OR 3 INDIVIDUAL UNITS.
THESE ARE VERY RARE. FBO HAS PROPOSAL FROM POST (SEE
GEORGETOWN 2569 OF 1976) FOR 8 UNIT APARTMENT CONSTRUCTION
ON EXISTING USG OWNED VACANT PROPERTY. POST FIRMLY
BELIEVES THAT REQUIRING UNMARRIED OFFICERS TO SHARE
EXISTING LEASED HOUSES TO SAVE SECURITY GUARD COSTS
COULD ADVERSELY AFFECT MORALE AT THIS HARDSHIP POST
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AND ULTIMATELY SERIOUSLY HAMPER RECRUITMENT.
BLACKEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
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From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
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SAS ID: 3120975
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POST SECURITY PROGRAM, GEORGETOWN
TAGS: ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/e45d7bb8-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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